

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Device for protection of a horse's hoof, having the shape of a sole (1) fixed by cementing to the lower surface, which bears on the ground, of the hoof and substituting for a horseshoe,

characterized in that said sole (1), made from a low density synthetic material, is, for at least a portion of the sole, constituted by the superposition of at least two layers (2, 3) of material of different hardnesses, one (2) of the layers, of a greater hardness to resist wear and abrasion, constituting the surface of said sole (1) that bears on the ground, another layer (3), adapted to come into contact with the hoof, having a lesser hardness to constitute a damping and/or shock absorbing layer, the assembly permitting accommodating the natural deformations of the horny wall of the hoof.

2. (original) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that each layer (2, 3) is made of an elastomeric material selected preferably from the group of components including the polyurethanes.

3. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the layers (2, 3) are made by molding, preferably by injection, one of the layers being preferably injected onto the surface of the other layer.

4. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the lower layer (2) that bears on the ground of the sole (1) has a hardness comprised within the range of Shore A40 to Shore D50.

5. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the so-called upper layer (3), in contact with the hoof, is made in the form of an expanded foam microstructure.

6. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the sole (1) is obtained by cutting out a mass-produced blank (8) and shaped so as to over a plurality of sizes of the sole (1).

7. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the sole (1) is in the form of an open structure whose peripheral external edge is shaped to follow the external contour of the hoof at least over a portion of this contour.

8. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the sole (1) is a closed structure, hollow, of a generally annular shape, the portion (4) of the sole (1) adapted to be disposed in line with the fork of the hoof, being in the form of a single layer corresponding to the layer (2) that bears on the ground of greater hardness of said sole.

9. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the sole (1) is a closed structure hollow in its central portion, the portion (4) of the sole (1), that is in line with the fork of the hoof, being made in the form of a portion that is separable at the time of applying said sole.

10. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the sole (1) comprises, on its surface adapted to come into contact with the hoof, at least two grooves (5) that converge, each groove serving for the recess of a securing member of the pinch type.

11. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1,

characterized in that the layer (2) that bears on the ground of said sole (1) is configured in the form of cramps (6) improving the adherence of said sole to the ground.